

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 26-46 are newly added.

Counsel thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone discussion on January 25, 2006. During that phone call, counsel discussed the provisional double patenting rejection and the prior art rejections based on the Boysworth reference. In particular, counsel pointed out during that call that the applicant was likely going to add the claims from the '764 application into the present application in order to make the double patenting rejection moot. In addition, counsel pointed out that U.S. Patent No. 6,961,677 to Boysworth ("Boysworth") is owned by ITT Manufacturing, the same assignee as the present application.

To this end, claims 1-13 and 15-22 of the '764 application are added to this application as claims 26-46. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by these new claims because the specification for the present application fully supports the subject matter of claims 26-46. The provisional double patenting rejection is now believed to be moot.

The prior art rejections made under 35 U.S.C. 103 both of the claims in the present application and the claims in the '764 application are based on the Parent reference in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,961,677 to Boysworth. As pointed out during the telephone discussion with the Examiner, the Boysworth patent is owned by ITT Manufacturing, the same assignee as the present application and the '764 application. Therefore, as stated in 35 U.S.C. 103(c)(1), the Boysworth reference cannot be used in a Section 103 obviousness rejection against the claims of this application and of the '764 application because (based on its filing date only several weeks before the filing date of the present application) it qualifies as prior art only under subsection (e) under 35 U.S.C. 102. The Examiner made note of this fact when counsel brought this to her attention during the telephone discussion.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-46 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned in the event there are any further questions or comments.

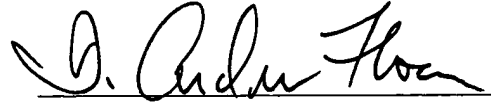
Also submitted concurrently herewith is an excess claim fee payment in the amount of \$1,500 for the 21 additional claims, 3 of which are independent claims. Applicant hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Dated: January 31, 2006

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